

**Meeting Notes**  
**CALFED Bay-Delta Program North Delta Improvements Group**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 9:30 am in room 1142**

**Attendance List:**

Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission  
Marina Brand, DFG/CVBDB  
Brad Burkholder, DFG  
Mike Callahan, San Joaquin County Public Works  
Robert Clark, CCFVCA  
Michael Coleman, CALFED  
Rob Cooke, CALFED  
Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers  
Bill Darsie, KSN Engineers  
Aimee Dour-Smith, Jones and Stokes  
Bruce Duncan, CALFED  
Larry Eastteam, KCRA-TV  
Mike Eaton, The Nature Conservancy  
Sergio Guillen, DWR  
Walter Hoppe, Point Pleasant  
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED (chair)  
Grant Kreinberg, SAFCA  
Gil Labrie, DCC Engineering  
Roger Lee, DWR Reclamation Board  
Boone Lek, DWR  
Sara Martin, Jones & Stokes (minutes)  
Jim Smith, EBMUD  
Jeff Stuart, NMFS  
Surjit Toor, NRCS  
Topper VanLoebenSels, RD 551, NDWA, and DPC  
Chuck Vogelsang, CALFED  
Carl Werder, USBR

**Introductions:**

Aimee Dour-Smith began the meeting with a round of introductions. She then handed out copies of the minutes from the last NDIG meeting, which was on October 4, and requested that comments/corrections be sent to either her or Gwen Knittweis by December 14.

**Regional Hydraulic Modeling Effort:**

Gwen Knittweis updated the group on the progress of the Hydraulic Modeling Coordination Team. The team is making progress, and the meetings are now seeing more stakeholder participation. MBK has completed a scope of work and they are very close to reaching a finalized cost estimate, and as of right now, it stands at \$150,000. SAFCA, Sacramento County, and DWR/CALFED will share the cost of developing the regional model.

Aimee Dour-Smith then presented maps of the tentative hydraulic model study area boundaries. The map will be further refined and finalized at the next HMCT meeting, after which the map will be available per e-mail in PDF format. The tentative boundaries are as follows:

- The northern boundary will be just north of Stone Lakes,
- The western boundary will loosely follow the eastern boundary of the Sacramento River,
- The eastern boundary will include the Cosumnes/Mokelumne watershed and extend to the Hwy 16 crossing on the Cosumnes and to Woodbridge Dam on the Mokelumne, and
- The southern boundary will be the confluence of the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers, including Little Potato Slough.

A question regarding the influence of Dry Creek was asked, and Aimee confirmed that Dry Creek is an influence when it comes to flooding but that quantitative data on Dry Creek is lacking.

Mike Eaton of TNC asked whether or not the regional model will provide detailed enough information to use in their restoration project on McCormack-Williamson Tract. Gwen answered that UC Davis' Mike 11 tool deals with sediments and should address TNC's site-specific needs on McCormack-Williamson Tract.

The next Hydraulic Modeling Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12 from 1:30-3:30 in the Jones and Stokes 19<sup>th</sup> Street office. The meetings are open to stakeholder input, and the items to be discussed include the cost-sharing agreements, boundary map refinement, and the selection of a peer review panel.

#### **North Delta Agency Team and Federal Lead Agency:**

The last NDAT meeting was Tuesday, December 4, and Aimee Dour-Smith provided a summary of what was discussed. Highlights included permit compliance and the CALFED permit coordination program, relationships between agencies, tiering from CALFED, mechanics and scheduling, and federal lead agency. The choices for federal lead agency were between the planning and regulatory branches of the USACE. If the planning branch was chosen, there could be a possibility of getting funding, but the process would take a long time. With the regulatory department however, there would be no guarantee of funding, but the process would be much quicker. For the purposes of expedience, CALFED/DWR is recommending USACE Regulatory as the federal lead agency. USACE Regulatory is working with DWR/CALFED to put together an analysis of what they believe their role will be and how the needed staff resources could be funded.

#### **Staten Island Purchase:**

Mike Eaton then updated the group on the Staten Island purchase. The purchase closed on November 13, and a press conference was held on November 20. Mike was happy

with the good press received by the project. TNC has three basic goals for Staten Island: (1) continued agriculture, (2) habitat restoration, and (3) potential flood storage on the property. Jim Shanks will continue managing the property for another year, until December of 2002. Conditions on Staten Island include the restriction that existing agricultural land can not be converted out of agricultural production except with the approval of DWR. The island's agricultural lands provide prime habitat for cranes and will continue to do so under the sale.

TNC's goal is to create a new, local non-profit organization by mid-2002 to take over the management of the property and employees, and achieve continuity during the transitional process. TNC is working with DPC on this effort.

A question was raised as to how the local tax base will be protected, and Mike explained that generally, a non-profit organization that uses the property for profit pays property tax on that property. There also was some concern over what would happen to the cranes that normally use the island if the island were to be inundated during a major flood. Mike pointed out that inundation of the island for flood protection purposes cannot be carried out in a manner which negatively impacts the crane population, and that the determination of impact on cranes is a key issue for the EIR/EIS to address.

Regarding constraints on the McCormack-Williamson Tract project, it was pointed out that the KCRA tower and gye anchors would need flood protection (i.e., levees) if the island is to be used as flood protection storage.

Jones and Stokes will schedule a field trip for the group to Staten Island and McCormack Williamson Tract on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. This field trip will take the place of the normal NDIG January meeting.

#### **Delta-Wide Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee:**

Michael Coleman discussed the Delta-wide Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee (DERSC) progress on developing a plan for implementing ERP actions in the Delta. The DERSC experienced a 60-day setback due to additional coordination with state and federal fishery agencies, but they are getting back on schedule and moving forward once again. He will have an update on the schedule for the plan effort at the next meeting, but he did say that they are looking at a March or April date for finalizing the Delta-Wide Implementation Plan.

#### **Other Items:**

Aimee mentioned that beginning soon, more information on the project will be posted online at the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance website (<http://www.mcwatershed.org/>), including schedule updates, meeting times and locations, as well as meeting notes. Some suggested that the CALFED website ([www.CALFED.water.ca.gov](http://www.CALFED.water.ca.gov)) is a more appropriate location for this. More information will be available at the next meeting concerning where this information will be available.

#### **Related Projects – Updates and Written Descriptions:**

Aimee alerted the group that a list of projects related to the NDIP or in the vicinity of the

NDIP has been created, along with brief written descriptions of each project. This list will be e-mailed out to the group during the next week. Aimee asked the group review the descriptions and send any revisions back January 25, 2002.

**Other Project News/ Next Meeting Date:**

Gwen Knittweis then asked the group if there were any other project updates. Margit Aramburu informed the group that the Delta Recreation Master Plan was rejected due to the budget shortfalls in California, and she is thus hoping that the NDIP will incorporate a recreation enhancement program. Gwen stated that there would be a recreation element to the NDIP, and Michael Eaton of TNC mentioned their plans to erect some viewing blinds and create more parking on Staten Island.

Gwen mentioned that she is coordinating with Ron Ott on the Delta Cross-Channel and Through-Delta Facility feasibility studies, to make sure that the projects aren't at odds with one another. Some debate then took place regarding whether or not it is too early in the process to incorporate the Through-Delta Facility project considerations, and whether or not the Through-Delta Facility project should be taken into consideration at all when developing the NDIP alternatives. It was decided that it would be appropriate to sit down with the DCC/ Through-Delta Facility group later to review each project's alternatives.

Margit then announced that CALFED is planning a full-day Delta Forum discussion on Tuesday, January 15, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in Stockton. During this Forum, all Delta projects will be discussed in order to tie them all together, and there will be a limited period for public comment at the end of the Forum.

The next NDIG meeting will be an RSVP-only field trip to McCormack-Williamson and Staten Islands. Jones and Stokes will be organizing the trip, and the tentative date is **Friday, January 11**. In the case of inclement weather, the backup date is Friday, February 8. The February NDIG meeting is scheduled for 9:30-11:30 a.m. on **Thursday, February 7, 2002**, room 1142 at CALFED offices.

**Action Items:**

Item No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
1	Review and comment on the October meeting notes	All NDIG members	by 12/14/01
2	Review and make corrections to/suggestions for the Related Projects Descriptions (provide recommended text)	All NDIG members	by 01/25/02
3	E-mail refined Hydraulic Modeling Boundary Map to NDIG members after next Hydraulic Modeling Coordination Team Meeting	Jones and Stokes	by 12/18/01
4	Coordinate field trip to McCormack-Williamson and Staten Islands.	Jones and Stokes	by 12/28/01